



2020 Annual Report



COLLABORATION
COLLEGIALITY
CONSENSUS BUILDING



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
EQUALITY
STEWARDSHIP



A message from the CEO:

In September of 2019, NASBLA members departed the annual conference in Anchorage, Alaska, with our association's 60th Anniversary in the history books and our sights set on Manchester, New Hampshire, to continue our next three decades of commitment to recreational boating safety. Little did any of us know that in the next 15 months we would see our world disrupted and transformed in ways we could never have anticipated.

Despite, or perhaps in part because of, the historic political, social and economic upheavals we experienced in 2020, together with the worldwide impacts of COVID-19 and social distancing, and public health restrictions brought about by the pandemic, recreational boating

enjoyed an unprecedented boom in participation across the nation and the boating industry. With this tremendous increase in boating activity, sadly and predictably, we also saw an increase in boating incidents and fatalities. NASBLA shares its condolences with all those among our family, friends and community who suffered irreplaceable losses during this distressing year.

Like our member agencies and other able partners in boating safety and maritime security nationwide, including the U.S. Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and many, many more, NASBLA pressed on in the face of the challenges we confronted this year. As the association's CEO and Executive Director, I am pleased to present a synopsis of the initiatives we undertook and the objectives we accomplished in the *NASBLA 2020 Annual Report*.

Among other historic "firsts" last year, while the rest of the world was moving out of their respective office spaces and workplaces, NASBLA was moving in! Taking possession of the new, three-story office, the purchase of which the Executive Board approved the prior year. In early 2020, staff relocated the association's headquarters operations to our new facility at 1020 Monarch Street in Lexington, Kentucky. Although the building would not be refitted in time for the February *State Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Workshop*, over the spring and summer, the headquarters facility would be transformed from not only the physical locus of our association, but also a virtual, national communications hub where NASBLA would host its first-ever virtual annual conference.

In this inaugural annual report, you will find a comprehensive overview of the association's key programs, campaigns and capabilities in an unfolding narrative that reflects the strategies and priorities of the association's strategic goals. There are summaries of ongoing efforts including Operation Dry Water, the Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program and the National Education Standards Panel, as well as critical information on our internal infrastructure and a yearly snapshot of our financial condition.



John Johnson, CAE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Our membership's national public policy priorities are reflected in *NASBLA's Top Ten Most Wanted List of Recreational Boating Safety Improvements*, many of which are supported through the association's forward-looking research and development program. Each year, our staff and professional volunteers, in cooperation with the U.S Coast Guard's Boating Safety Division staff, undertake an ambitious slate of research and policy-oriented grant projects to advance the RBS community's understanding of the factors that drive boating accidents, as well as potential policy solutions and interventions to mitigate these factors.

In a typical year, NASBLA's grant management team will administer as many as 20 different grant projects across multiple topical areas and overlapping grant cycles. This report includes abstracts of grant projects that were completed in project year 2020, along with new grant awards the association received from the Coast Guard for work primarily in 2021.

The report also reviews highlights of the *State RBS Workshop*, the *BOAT Program Instructor Development Workshop*, the *2020 Policy Committee season*, the *2020 National Awards program* and the *61st NASBLA Annual Conference*, as well as showcasing the association's *Top Ten Accomplishments* for the year. While the work reflected in this report is not that different from the accomplishments in a typical NASBLA project year, the fact that our staff and committee volunteers were able to pull off these feats in the throes of such an atypical year, is a testament to their professionalism and personal commitment to the association's mission.

Among those efforts meriting special recognition for their contribution to the states and our national partners in the year of the pandemic, there are (at least) three cross-cutting initiatives that have made significant impacts on our operations and outcomes including the development of the "virtual boater education classroom" through emergency approval authority, the designation of key BOAT Program personnel as essential workers in critical, local training areas, and, perhaps most importantly, our staff (and volunteers) sudden, but highly successful transition to the remote workplace and virtual work space.

All three of these initiatives have been fundamental to our ability to meet the needs of our members and to continue advancing the mission of our association, as was the NASBLA staff initiative early-on in the pandemic to survey members on the impacts of the public response. Data gathered through these timely efforts was especially helpful in planning and insightful in informing our members of the changing landscape of recreational boating and boating agencies across the nation.

As we all look forward to a better year ahead, on behalf of our Executive Board, our members, staff and partners, thank you all for your efforts in helping us move our association forward!

Respectfully,



John M. Johnson, CAE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

07

A recap of the top accomplishments achieved by NASBLA in 2020.



15

State RBS Workshop, Committee Meetings, BOAT Program Instructor Development Workshop and Operation Dry Water.



18

NASBLA's first-ever virtual annual conference and business meeting.



19

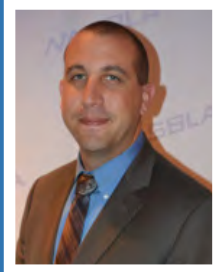
2020 NASBLA National Award Winners.

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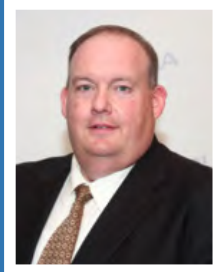
EXECUTIVE BOARD

2019 - 2020



Cody Jones

**CHAIR
TEXAS**



Tim Dunleavy

**VICE CHAIR
NEW HAMPSHIRE**



Kenton Turner

**TREASURER
INDIANA**



Mark Brown

**PAST PRESIDENT
OKLAHOMA**



Dan Hesket

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE
KANSAS**



Susan Stocker

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE
IOWA**

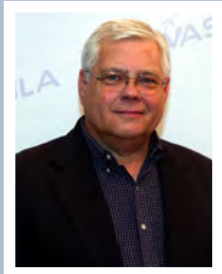


Corey Britcher

**MEMBER-AT-LARGE
PENNSYLVANIA**



NASBLA STAFF



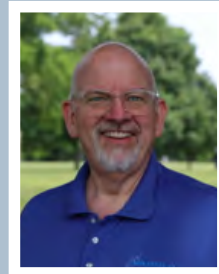
John Fetterman
**DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**



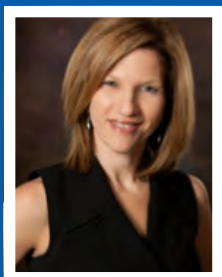
Hannah Helsby, CAE
**DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**



Tom Hayward
**CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER**



Ron Sarver
**CHIEF, KNOWLEDGE &
LEARNING MANAGEMENT
SYSTEMS**



Angela Baldwin
**OFFICE
MANAGER**



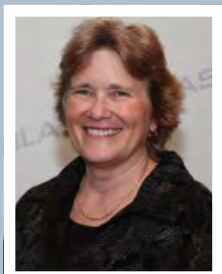
Rick Barrera
**COMMITTEE
STAFF**



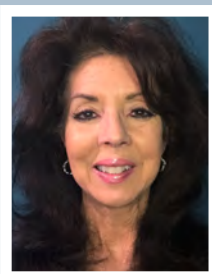
Dave Considine
**BOAT PROGRAM
DIRECTOR**



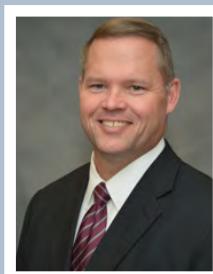
Mark Chanski
**EDUCATION
DIRECTOR**



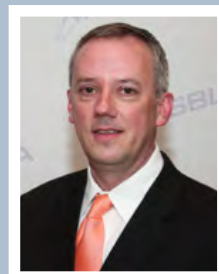
Pam Dillon, CAE
**PROJECT
SPECIALIST**



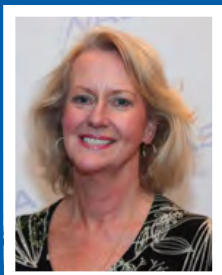
Dr. Deb Gona
**RESEARCH
CONSULTANT**



Tom Guess
**VIRGINIA BLA
VOLUNTEER**



Sam Lynch
**MEMBERSHIP SERVICES
DIRECTOR**



Marlene Mason
**ASSOCIATION
ACCOUNTANT**



Taylor Matsko
**COMMUNICATIONS &
OUTREACH COORDINATOR**



Chris Moore
**TRAINING
DIRECTOR**



Alex Otte
**RESEARCH
ASSOCIATE**

2019 REVENUE BREAKDOWN

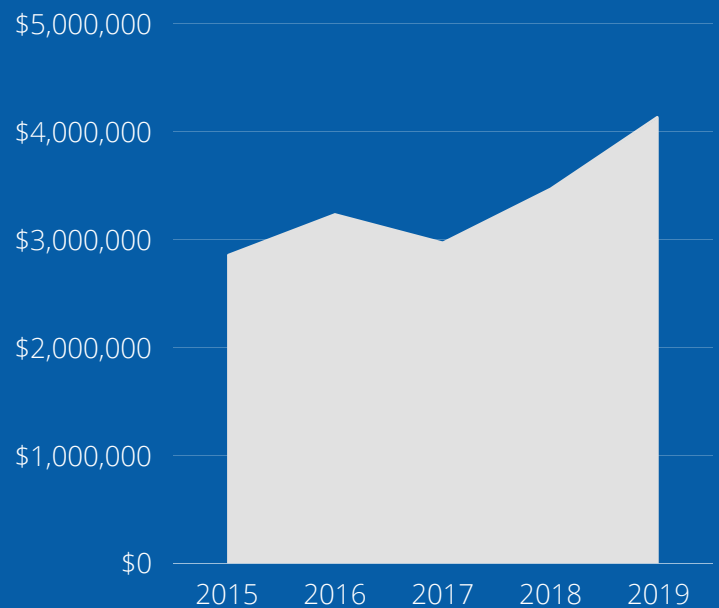
2019 Total	\$4,133,907.00	
Federal Grants	\$1,723,474.00	42%
Training Programs	\$1,832,783.00	44%
Member Dues	\$344,988.00	8%
Sponsor Income	\$105,380.00	3%
Rental Income	\$83,022.00	2%
Other	\$44,260.00	1%

NASBLA revenues jumped to \$4,133,907 in 2019, increasing by \$1,278,770 since 2015. Expenses for 2019 were \$3,850,836. 2019 was also a momentous year, as NASBLA purchased its headquarters building at 1020 Monarch Street in Lexington, KY. NASBLA occupies the second floor, while the first and third floors provide rental income. Net assets of the association increased to \$860,962 at the end of 2019, increasing over \$735,435 since 2015.

(Audited financial statements and the 2019 990 tax filing are available on the NASBLA website under the "About NASBLA" page.)

5-YEAR REVENUE

YEAR	REVENUE
2015	\$2,855,137.00
2016	\$3,232,179.00
2017	\$2,968,888.00
2018	\$3,469,679.00
2019	\$4,133,907.00



2019 FINANCIALS

TOP 10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. CERTIFIED RECREATIONAL BOATING PROFESSIONAL (CRBP)

Launched the CRBP Program, and had the first person successfully pass all domains

2. INLAND BOAT OPERATORS & PATROL FUNDAMENTALS TTT COURSE

Launched the Inland Boat Operators and Patrol Fundamentals Train-the-Trainer (TTT) Course

3. RECREATIONAL BOATING INCIDENT REPORTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Completed and achieved consensus among the states on a package of recreational boating incident reporting recommendations to the U.S. Coast Guard for its use in developing national policy and regulatory reforms

4. 1020 MONARCH STREET, SUITE 200, LEXINGTON, KY 40513

NASBLA purchased and moved into our own headquarters building

5. STAFFING AGREEMENT WITH LIFE JACKET ASSOCIATION

Launched a formal staffing agreement with Life Jacket Association (LJA)

6. MOU BETWEEN NABSLA, USCG, AND FLETC

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between NABSLA, USCG, and FLETC was finalized and signed

7. OPERATION DRY WATER RECEIVES POWER OF A GOLD AWARD

Received the Power of A Gold Award for Operation Dry Water (ODW)

8. NASBLA EMERGENCY COVID-19 VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Achieved NASBLA Emergency COVID-19 Virtual Classroom and Testing Authorization

9. DRAFTED 5 CORE-PLUS BASIC BOATING KNOWLEDGE STANDARDS

The National Boating Education Standards Panel (ESP) drafted five Core-Plus Basic Boating Knowledge Standards including facilitation of two public review processes. The ESP received USCG grant funding after a five-year gap in federal grant support.

10. OFFICER SAFETY DURING COVID-19

Partnering with Louisiana State University's National Center for Biomedical Research and Training/Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education, video training was produced for officer safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. NASBLA officer training was designated by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as "essential" in delivery of training to military installations under NASBLA's Instructor Health Guidance policy.



David Windsor,
First CRBP Certification



Inland Boat Operators & Patrol
Fundamentals TTT Course



NASBLA Headquarters



COVID-19 Officer Safety

NASBLA BOAT PROGRAM

OVER 1,100 FIRST RESPONDERS TRAINED IN 2020

Considering the obstacles associated with course delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic, the NASBLA BOAT Program worked tirelessly to reschedule and deliver safe and effective courses to its students.

In March, the BOAT Program decided to postpone 32 courses because of the restrictions and health concerns related to COVID-19, and to ensure the safety of all of the instructors and first responders. During this time NASBLA analyzed the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) recommendations and guidance for law enforcement, public safety agencies and health workers to formulate an "Instructor Health Guidance Policy". This policy is still in effect and is the minimum requirement for any NASBLA course delivery.

Because of this stringent policy and the extra efforts of the instructors, the BOAT Program was able to again begin training first responders on June 1, 2020. Since then the BOAT Program has conducted 28 Direct Delivery courses, five Grant Delivery courses, 38 Indirect Delivery courses through accredited agencies, and seven Indirect Delivery courses through the U.S. Coast Guard. From these 78 courses, 1,179 students were trained to the national standard over the course of this year.

As the BOAT Program looks ahead to 2021, 27 courses that were postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19 are now rescheduled and will be delivered in the spring.

Since 2008, the BOAT Program has issued 18,030 certificates to over 600 agencies. The NASBLA BOAT Program is proud of its instructors, accredited agencies, partners and sponsors and all the work that was done to continue to deliver vital training to our nation's marine law enforcement and emergency first responders, even in the face of so many obstacles this year.

NASBLA BOAT PROGRAM

A closer look at 2020

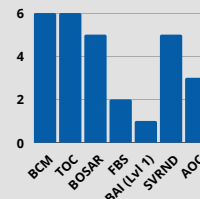
DIRECT DELIVERY

28

direct delivery
courses delivered.

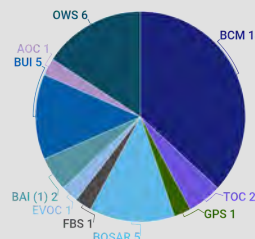
402

students
trained.



Direct Delivery Courses

INDIRECT DELIVERY - ACCREDITED AGENCIES



38

indirect delivery
courses delivered.

554

students
trained.

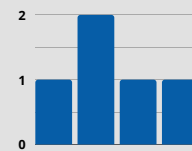
GRANT DELIVERY

5

grant delivery
courses delivered.

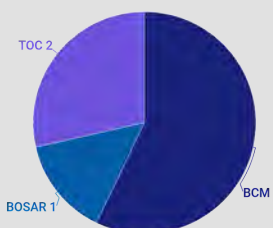
144

students
trained.



Grant Delivery Courses

INDIRECT DELIVERY - COAST GUARD COURSES



7

indirect delivery
USCG courses
delivered.

79

students
trained.

TRAINING TOTALS FOR 2020:

78

BOAT Program
courses delivered.

1,179

students
trained.

Committee, Panel & Advisory Board Reports

BOAT PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD

Chair: Shane Carrier, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources

[Click here for the full report.](#)

The Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program Advisory Board held its annual in-person meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, in coordination with the 2020 NASBLA Instructor Workshop.

New BOAT Advisory Board Members in 2020

- Brad Williams – NASBLA Program Manager
- Justin Vale – Providence Strike Team
- Casey Zolper – NASBLA Instructor
- Matt Majors – Marine Law Enforcement Officer

BOAT Advisory Board Rules went through a full revision in 2020.

Inland Boat Operator (TTT) BETA Test

Completed BETA testing of the newly developed BOAT Program course.



Inland Boat Operator (TTT) Beta Test

USCG/NASBLA/FLETC MOU

John Johnson, NASBLA CEO, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizing a triad partnership between NASBLA, the U.S. Coast Guard and FLETC, pledging to maintain and stay in alignment regarding the national training standards. A formal audit will be conducted on a three-year cycle.

LSU Animation Project

Animated training video for safely conducting boating under the influence (BUI) inspections during COVID-19 was produced in a partnership with Louisiana State University (LSU).

ENFORCEMENT & TRAINING COMMITTEE

Chair: Aaron Kerr, Wyoming Game & Fish Department

[Click here for the full report.](#)

2020 Operation Dry Water

In 2020, the campaign increased participation and reached a record number of boater contacts over the course of the three-day weekend. ODW provided COVID-19 precautionary guidance to boaters and officers. This year, a “spotlight” article was published showcasing the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' commitment to BUI enforcement.



2020 Operation Dry Water Weekend

National Training Survey

In addition to adding micro-learning segments, this charge pointed the way towards development of the “Inland Boat Operators Course – Train the Trainer”. Utilizing BOAT Program experts, the project was delivered ahead of schedule on June 15. BETA testing was completed Sept 21-25, 2020 in Guilford, New Hampshire.

Engine Cut-Off Switch Wear:

An additional seven states have adopted a mandatory wear policy within their agency. That will bring the total confirmed to 22 member states.

Committee, Panel & Advisory Board Reports

EDUCATION STANDARDS PANEL (ESP)

Chair: Jeff Wheeler, *USCG Office of Boat Forces*

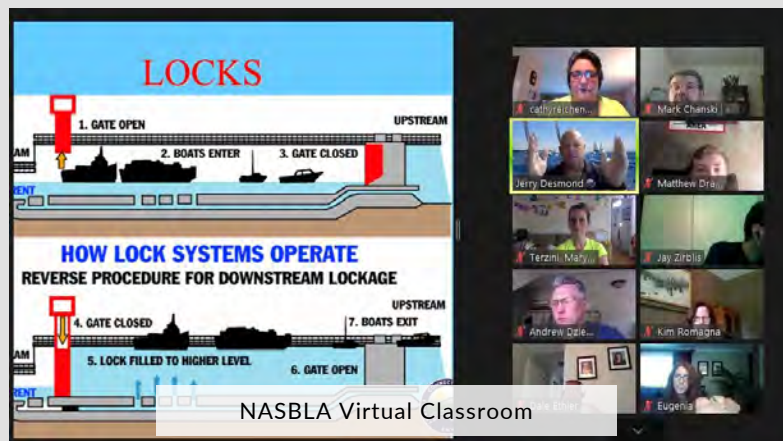
The Panel completed review and disposition of 178 public comments received during the first review period for five draft standards. This was the first review of draft standards in a new Core- Plus format recommended by the panel. This format promises to improve consistency and uniformity of all standards for Basic Boating Knowledge and speed up the update process for all standards. The working titles of these five documents are:

- Basic Boating Knowledge – Core;
- Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Human Propelled;
- Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Sailing;
- Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Power; and
- Supplement: Plus Water-Jet Propelled.



Education Standards Panel recognizes Kim Jackson, AZ

In July, the Panel posted the five draft standards for a second round of public review. The 60-day comment period closed September 29, 2020. Two national webinars were conducted. Each presented the revised drafts to various audiences including a review of how to submit comments. The recording is posted on the NASBLA Training webpage.



EDUCATION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chair: Stacey Brown, *Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

The committee has continued to provide oversight for the approval of classroom and internet courses. The team has also been following the proposed changes to the American National Standard for Basic Boating Knowledge.

Work has begun on evaluating the ability to utilize the existing American National Standard for Basic Boating Knowledge and NOWS EDU-1 (on-water standard) to meet the International Code of Competence (ICC) required by other countries for recreational boat operators.

The committee worked to secure up to date copies of each state's boating safety education card to be included in the education dashboard. In addition, each state provided the charge group with the mechanism by which the public can obtain replacement cards. This information is included in the education dashboards.

Committee, Panel & Advisory Board Reports

ENGINEERING, REPORTING & ANALYSIS COMMITTEE (ERAC)

Chair: Seth Wagner, *Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

Completion of Phase One of the recreational boating incident reporting policy project. A collaboration between the U.S. Coast Guard, States, and ERAC that was set in motion in November 2017 resulted in comprehensive recommendations for significant improvements to the national incident reporting structure and procedures. In June 2020, on behalf of the project workgroup, ERAC delivered the consensus recommendations package to the NASBLA Executive Board for its release to the States in July for a vote of acceptance and approval to transmit it to the Coast Guard.

The measure passed on July 31, with 54 of the 56 NASBLA member jurisdictions casting ballots. Notably, representation from ALL 50 States voted for acceptance. Following certification of the vote on August 5, the [entire package](#) was transmitted to the Office of Auxiliary & Boating Safety to guide its development of national reporting policy and regulatory provisions.

VESSEL IDENTIFICATION, REGISTRATION & TITLING COMMITTEE

Chair: Darren Rider, *Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

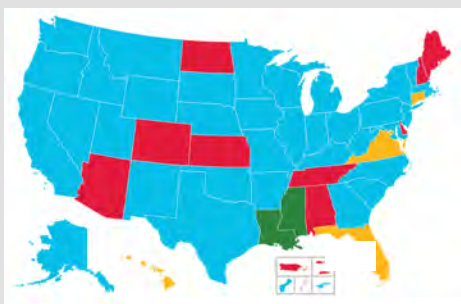
On September 24, 2020, the USCG implemented Policy #2020-1 – Implementation Of Title 33 CFR 174.16 Verification of Hull Identification Number (HIN). The USCG and the NASBLA VIRT Committee have been working together over the last two years to finalize this Policy in an effort to standardize how HINS are to be verified in accordance with Title 33 CFR 174.16 which became effective on January 1, 2017.

To assist states with implementing the regulation, the USCG worked with the NASBLA VIRT Committee to create the 2018 HIN Validation & Verification Guideline PowerPoint (VVGP), which was posted to the NASBLA website. In 2020, the HIN VVGP was revised to address issues raised by the states and USCG. This Power Point addresses how HINS are to be verified and assigned, including State Assigned HINS.

The HIN PowerPoint was revised and sent to the Coast Guard to support the State Assigned HIN Policy Statement in May 2020. Six items have been identified to assist states in becoming compliant with the SNS Regulations that became effective January 1, 2017.

2018 and 2019 Registration Data has been received from the Coast Guard and will be available on the VIRT Dashboard. Additional information was also updated on the Dashboard.

Model Registration Procedure for Indian Tribe Exempt Vessels that was originally produced in 2008 has been revised with the SNS changes that went into effect January 1, 2017.



TITLING & REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS BY STATE

Titling Required

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| Yes | Optional |
| Yes - UCOTVA | No |

Committee, Panel & Advisory Board Reports

RBS FINANCE & GRANTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Joe McCullough, *Alaska Office of Boating Safety*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

The committee worked with four pilot states – Alaska, New York, Oklahoma and Texas – to identify the necessary information needed to create updated Boating Safety Dollars at Work marketing materials for each state highlighting initiatives states implemented with funds distributed from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

A training survey was distributed to gauge the training needs of those who manage or interact with state RBS grants. The survey was sent to BLAs and state financial personnel contacts. Moving forward the committee will begin development of training based on those survey results.

Review of Draft State Guide

The committee compiled a package of all comments submitted by the states in reviewing the Draft State Guide presented by the U.S. Coast Guard. In addition, the committee reviewed the comments that were submitted and created an executive summary of all the comments submitted by the states. Both documents were submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard and are available in the committee's final report.

PADDLESORTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Kim Jackson, *Arizona Game & Fish Department*

[Click here for the full report.](#)

The Paddlesports committee met with paddlesports industry leaders at Paddlesport Retailer in Oklahoma City along with members of the NASBLA Executive Board. The committee also partnered with the American Canoe Association (ACA) and the Outdoor Industry Foundation in publishing the *2019 Special Report on Paddlesports Safety*. Committee members worked to develop multiple resources to assist states in their paddlesports programs such as a report on alternative sources of funding, a Paddlesports Social Media Messaging Plan and a white paper on *How to Get Involved with your State Paddling Community*.



Fiscal Year 2019 RBS Grants

As a result of the Fiscal Year 2019 National Nonprofit Organization Recreational Boating Safety Grant Program applications, NASBLA was awarded funding for eight grant projects, detailed below. The time period for these grants was July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2020.



A GUIDE TO MULTIPLE USE WATERWAY MANAGEMENT (THIRD EDITION)

As a result of USCG funding, NASBLA will publish "A Guide for Multiple Use Waterway Management (Third Edition - 2021)" identifying tools and references for resource managers, planners, regulators, and other waterway stakeholders and professionals to provide information about multiple use waterways. The Third Edition will be published in early 2021 and available in both PDF and electronic format with links on various aspects of waterway management topics for use when working with stakeholders and the boating public.

ADVANCING IMPLEMENTATION: BOATING EDUCATION STANDARDS

Under the leadership of Panel Chair Jeffrey Wheeler, the National Boating Education Standards Panel completed disposition of comments received during two public review periods for five draft standards following a new "Core-Plus" model. The five drafts are:

- NASBLA 100-20XX: Basic Boating Knowledge - Core (*108 total comments received*)
- NASBLA 101-20XX: Basic Boating Knowledge - Plus Human Propelled (*46 total comments received*)
- NASBLA 102-20XX: Basic Boating Knowledge - Plus Sailing (*22 total comments received*)
- NASBLA 103-20XX: Basic Boating Knowledge - Plus Power (*62 total comments received*)
- NASBLA 103.1-20XX: Supplement: Plus Water-Jet Propelled (*19 comments received*)

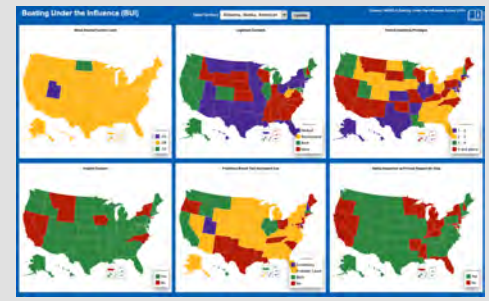
The drafts will be posted for a third public review period in early 2021. The Panel will publish a comprehensive Technical Report after recognition of the drafts as American National Standards by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Members of the Panel are appointed by the NASBLA Executive Board for three-year staggered terms representing five interest categories.

BOATING ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION & GPS FORENSICS COURSES

Even though the pandemic has affected travel and in-person meetings nationwide, NASBLA has conducted two of the six Boating Accident Investigation (BAI) courses funded through this grant. The remaining four courses have been awarded and will be rescheduled as soon as possible. This grant also funded two GPS Forensics courses, one of which was conducted in California earlier this year. The remaining GPS Forensics course will be conducted next spring.

BOATING SAFETY DASHBOARD PHASE IV

Boating Safety Dashboard Phase IV facilitates the states' use of program data by providing easy to use, interactive graphic illustrations with comparisons to other programs. New dashboards added in 2020 include: Boating Under the Influence, Operation Dry Water, Paddlesports Participation, Commercial Regulation, Liability, Seaplanes, Marine Sanitation Devices, Personal Watercraft, Search & Rescue, Vessel Operations and Water Skiing.



Boating Under the Influence Dashboard

BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE DETECTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

As a result of the pandemic, one of the four grant-funded Boating Under the Influence (BUI) courses have been conducted. The remaining three courses will be conducted next spring. NASBLA is currently in the process of finalizing the new Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus (HGN) online training program. NASBLA has also completed the new Advanced BUI Detection course with a focus on detecting abuse of marijuana and/or other drugs.

BUI AWARENESS & ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN: OPERATION DRY WATER

The 2020 Operation Dry Water (ODW) heightened awareness and enforcement weekend took place July 3–5. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, officers were able to take advantage of the stark increase in boater participation this summer by making a record number of contacts with boaters. Over the course of the three-day weekend, 620 local, state and federal law enforcement agencies participated in the campaign. Officers also made contact with more than 305,000 boaters while patrolling our nation's waterways.

BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE REPORT AND DASHBOARD: ALCOHOL & DRUG USE IN RECREATIONAL BOATING

NASBLA was awarded a second round of grant funding for the *Boating Under the Influence Report and Dashboard: Alcohol & Drug Use in Recreational Boating*. During this grant year, NASBLA collected expanded resources for analysis and drafted a supplement to the previously submitted annotated bibliography document, including additional alcohol related research not previously cited. NASBLA continually monitored the BUI Dashboards, state legislation and related media for any necessary updates.

STANDARDIZING STATE RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY STATUTES & REGULATIONS: NASBLA & THE STATES

NASBLA partnered with and supports the states, the U.S. Coast Guard and the recreational boating safety (RBS) community in standardizing state recreational boating safety statutes, regulations and policies. This grant provided funding for support and travel for state committee members for in-person meetings. It also assists NASBLA in communicating with the states and others through the *NASBLA Weekly* e-newsletter, NASBLA's website, social media and *NASBLA Connect*, an online community. NASBLA was also able to complete a comprehensive update of the online reference guide to state RBS laws and regulations. With grant assistance, NASBLA provided hands-on opportunities for coordination of state efforts through the offerings of the 2019 NASBLA's annual conference which hosted 300+ boating law administrators, state staff, USCG staff, and others from the RBS community. NASBLA also hosted the 2020 State RBS Workshop where more than 70 people from 40 states attended to discuss methods, means and resources for improved administration of the state RBS programs.



NASBLA Chair, Cody Jones, presents the NASBLA Award to Caroline Mantel at the State RBS Workshop.



State RBS Workshop

NASBLA Events & Committee Meetings

STATE RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY (RBS) WORKSHOP

The NASBLA State Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Workshop was held February 26 – 27, 2020, in Lexington, Kentucky. State agency representatives, including boating law administrators, education coordinators and enforcement coordinators, along with members of the U.S. Coast Guard, attended the 2020 RBS Workshop and forty states were represented at the two day-meeting.

Presentations were given on the topics of state grant programs, outreach and awareness campaigns, state advocacy programs, education standards, alcohol research and first responder training. This annual meeting provides boating authorities an opportunity to attend sessions on current and emerging issues affecting boating program management and engage in open dialogue with their colleagues on topics specific to state recreational boating safety programs.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Four NASBLA Policy Committees met immediately following the NASBLA State Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Workshop on February 28, 2020, in Lexington, Kentucky. The four committees that convened following the Workshop were Enforcement & Training, Engineering, Reporting & Analysis (ERAC), Paddlesports and Vessel Identification, Registration & Titling (VIRT). The Education & Outreach Committee planned to meet prior to the International Boating & Water Safety Summit (IBWSS), April 4 – 5, 2020, in Glendale, Arizona. However, this meeting was cancelled due to the restrictions and guidelines associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Finance & Grants Committee meetings were held virtually.

The travel expenses for 11 state members from each of the four committees that met following the State RBS Workshop were funded through the RBS Partnering with States grant. Each committee convened on the progress of current charges and discussed next steps for the committee year.

NASBLA Events & Committee Meetings

BOAT PROGRAM NATIONAL INSTRUCTOR DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

The 2020 Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) Program Instructor Development Workshop was held in Lexington, Kentucky from March 10 – 11. During the Workshop, NASBLA BOAT Program instructors were given opportunity to further their instructor development in a variety of ways. Over the course of two days, instructors learned about new advances in adult learning, science of learning advancements, and much more. Instructors also reviewed some more familiar information including BOAT Program policies, risk management procedures, possible mishaps, and how to avoid them.

Each year, NASBLA recognizes the BOAT Program Instructor of the Year at the Instructor Workshop. The 2019 Instructor of the Year Award was presented to Patrick "Mike" Neal for his exceptional performance of duties and responsibilities within the NASBLA BOAT Program. Mike Neal has been instrumental in the growth and success of NASBLA's Boat Accident Investigation (BAI) course program. He has been a NASBLA Lead Instructor for over 15 years, overseeing the delivery of more than 30 BAI courses across the country and training over 800 students in the National Standard of training. Neal is one of the longest standing credentialed BAI Instructors in the nation.

Additionally, NASBLA's industry partners are invited to the Instructor Workshop to present their products and recent advancements to the instructors to ensure that they are well-versed in the products that are available. Some of these industry partners included in this year's event were FLIR Marine and First Watch.

OPERATION DRY WATER

Over the July 4th holiday weekend, July 3 – 5, law enforcement agencies and officers across the United States took part in the 2020 Operation Dry Water campaign. During the three-day heightened enforcement and awareness weekend, 620 local, state and federal law enforcement agencies were on heightened alert for those in violation of boating under the influence laws and other boating safety infractions. From these agencies, 7,612 law enforcement officers conducted patrols resulting in a total of 625 boating under the influence (BUI) arrests. The highest recorded blood alcohol concentration (BAC) was more than four times the legal limit at 0.368 percent. Officers also made contact with more than 305,000 boaters while patrolling our nation's waterways.

The Operation Dry Water campaign is held annually over the three-day weekend nearest to July 4th, a holiday known for dangerous and deadly incidents related to drug and alcohol use on the water. The campaign facilitates increased public awareness of the dangers associated with impaired boating and the heightened enforcement of boating under the influence laws.



BOAT Program Instructor
Development Workshop



2020 Instructor of the Year
Mike Neal



2020 Operation Dry Water
three-day weekend

OPERATION DRY WATER AWARDS

OPERATION DRY WATER OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The 2020 Operation Dry Water Officer of the Year is Conservation Officer Jarred Coffing from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Over the Operation Dry Water three-day weekend, Conservation Officer Jarred Coffing made five arrests for boating under the influence. Officer Coffing not only conducts thorough investigations, but also submits detailed and professional reports, resulting in convictions in nearly all of his cases. He is committed to making Indiana's waterways a safe place for everyone in his area of responsibility. Officer Coffing's passion for BUI prevention and his willingness to go the extra mile to ensure that boaters on the water are safe does not go unnoticed.



TOP AGENCY AWARD: SMALL, MEDIUM & LARGE

This year's **Small Category Top Agency** award is awarded to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department from the state of California. Over the course of the three-day heightened enforcement weekend, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department deployed three officers and made 18 boating under the influence arrests. We'd like to recognize the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department for their continued commitment to keeping our waterways safe by actively and thoroughly addressing boating under the influence throughout California.

The **Medium Category Top Agency** award goes to the Illinois Conservation Police. During the three-day Operation Dry Water weekend, the Illinois Conservation Police deployed 70 officers and made 20 boating under the influence arrests. We'd like to thank the Illinois Conservation Police for their year-round dedication to BUI prevention and their efforts to make Illinois waters safer for their community.

The **Large Category Top Agency** award is presented to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission. Over the course of the Operation Dry Water weekend, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission deployed 165 officers and made 59 boating under the influence arrests. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission continues to save lives on the water by removing impaired operators and educating boaters about the dangers of BUI and other boating safety hazards.

MEDIA AWARD

The 2020 Operation Dry Water Media Award is presented to the First Coast Guard District's Public Affairs Team. The First Coast Guard District's Public Affairs Team masterfully employed five social media platforms and provided input and support to 42 Facebook pages managed by subordinate units. The staff's creative and successful media outreach campaign reached 3.2 million people on social media, generating more than 71,000 engagements. Working closely with federal, state and local law-enforcement partners, the First District team engaged and informed the boating public on the danger of boating under the influence, while emphasizing general boating safety.

NASBLA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE & BUSINESS MEETING

NASBLA held this year's business meeting and annual conference, for the first time virtually, from the Lexington, Kentucky, headquarters, Sept. 28 - 30.

The NASBLA Business Meeting on Sept. 28 covered a variety of topics including a report from the U.S. Coast Guard, policy committee reports and the election of the slate of officers. Captain Timothy Dunleavy was elected Chairman of the nonprofit organization for the 2020-2021 year. Lieutenant Kenton Turner was elected Vice Chair and Major Dan Hesket was

elected Treasurer. The virtual business meeting was attended by 48 boating law administrators (BLAs) from across the nation.

For the first-ever NASBLA Virtual Annual Conference, more than 300 individuals registered to attend the event. The annual conference sessions took place Sept. 29 - 30. NASBLA received overwhelmingly positive feedback from sponsors and attendees in regards to the production and presentation of the virtual event.

At the conference, a variety of breakout sessions were featured in the agenda, similar to what one would find at an in-person annual conference. Panel discussions were held on the topics of wake-related activities and potential changes to Federal regulations regarding throw bags and type IV throwables. Several sessions, including Time, Distance and Shielding - Seated Field Sobriety Testing Best Practices and Pandemic Boating Education - Virtual Boating Classes Set Sail were timely given adaptations that are having to be made across the recreational boating community since the onset of COVID-19.





Pete Chisholm
Maxim Award for Distinguished Service



Corporal Stacey Mosher
Boating Safety Award



Lieutenant Derek Wallin
Chair Award

2020 NATIONAL AWARDS

Typically, NASBLA recognizes its award winners in-person at the annual conference. However, this year the annual conference was held virtually, so we were only able to recognize some of these winners during the short awards ceremony which took place on Sept. 30. Because of this, NASBLA hosted individual virtual award recognition ceremonies to show our appreciation to all of the 2020 NASBLA award winners.

DR. L. DANIEL MAXIM AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The 2020 Maxim Award for Distinguished Service is presented to **Pete Chisholm** with Mercury Marine. Pete Chisholm has been involved with NASBLA for a number of years in various capacities. He has served on NASBLA's Engineering, Reporting & Analysis (ERAC) Committee, has provided technical assistance upon request, and works diligently in collaboration with NASBLA's BOAT Program. Pete has been on the forefront of conducting validating research to further the accuracy and court defendability of utilizing engine control unit data in crash reconstruction. This exceptional work has assisted in the prosecution of crimes and allows Mercury Marine to have a better understanding of the product operation, prior to, during, and after an incident. Pete continues to strive for better product development through safer designs of boating equipment to make the activity safer for all boaters.

BOATING SAFETY AWARD

The 2020 Boating Safety Award is presented to **Corporal Stacey Mosher** with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. In 1994, Corporal Mosher started her boating safety journey as a member of the 26th recruit class of the Missouri State Water Patrol. After graduation, Corporal Mosher was assigned to Lake of the Ozarks and has spent the majority of her career as an officer assigned to the Lake of the Ozarks region. While assigned to the water, Corporal Mosher was active with local charities, the Water Safety Council, peer support teams, volunteer organizations, and engaged with local citizens and businesses. Throughout her water career, Corporal Mosher set a positive example enforcing the boating laws of Missouri and became a valuable Marine Training Officer for numerous marine troopers.

CHAIR AWARD

The 2020 NASBLA Chair Award recipient is **Lieutenant Derek Wallin** with USCG Station Fort Lauderdale. Lt. Wallin committed four years to the BOAT Program Advisory Board as the Coast Guard's Field Representative. As Commander of Station Ft. Lauderdale, Lt. Wallin assisted NASBLA's state agencies in training more than 420 marine patrol officers in the national boat operation standards, resulting in more than \$1,000,000 in no-cost training to our state and local partners. In addition to his support for the management and implementation of BOAT Program courses, Lt. Wallin's oversight and initiative have also led to the development of important new micro-learning training videos to provide skill-based instruction for maritime law enforcement and other first responders.

PAMELA S. DILLON BOATING EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

The **Northern Region Educator of the Year** award recipient is **Richard Werner** of Safe Boating America. Richard Werner is a U.S. Coast Guard licensed Master and the owner of Safe Boating America, a safety education company based out of Bethpage, New York. Over the course of the past 16 years, Werner has delivered boating education to over 12,000 students in more than 350 sessions.

Sergeant Brad Stoop, of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC), has been named the **Southern Region Educator of the Year** for 2020. Sgt. Stoop began his career with the NCWRC Law Enforcement Division in March of 2000. In 2006, Sgt. Stoop began teaching standardized field sobriety testing procedure with a team of outstanding instructors. Since that time, Sgt. Stoop has had the opportunity to attend the NASBLA Instructor Seated Battery course. He and the team of instructors have been able to take this curriculum across the state and present it to all NCWRC officers.

The **Western Region and National Educator of the Year** award recipient is **Aaron Meier** of the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). Since taking over the boating education program, Meier has completely changed the way that the state of Nevada promotes boating safety and education. His efforts led to a 13% increase in the number of boater education certificates awarded in 2019. Over the past two years, Nevada has seen an incredible 33% increase in the number of boater education certificates awarded to recreational boaters.



BOATING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THE YEAR

Trooper Chad Juenker, of the New York State Police (NYSP), has been named the 2020 **Northern Region Officer of the Year**. For the past 15 years, Trooper Juenker's dedication to boating safety across New York state has contributed significantly to the state's overall effort to make the waterways safer for all boaters. Tpr. Juenker is now responsible for the operation of department vessels to include a 36' Munson, 19' Whalers, 10' Sea Doo personal watercraft and others. His versatility with field assignments and watercrafts has made him indispensable to the marine patrol unit of the NYSP.

The 2020 **Southern Region and National Officer of the Year** award recipient is **Corporal John Bunting** with the Maryland Natural Resources Police. In 2019, Cpl. Bunting responded to 830 calls for service, made contact with 760 recreational vessels, issued 737 safety violations, and completed 46 incident reports. He responded to a total of 12 boating incidents, and assumed the role of lead investigator for seven of them. Throughout the year, Corporal Bunting made a total of 32 custodial arrests - 17 of which were for Boating Under the Influence (BUI).

Sergeant Jared Jones, the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, has been named the 2020 **Western Region Officer of the Year**. Since the beginning of his career, Sgt. Jones has been active in the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation's law enforcement training programs. He has served as an instructor for various courses including firearms, defensive tactics, boating operation and tactics, and more. Sgt. Jones is a leader in BUI enforcement and arrests on the water.





Fiscal Year 2020 RBS Grants

NASBLA works annually to construct grant project proposals to meet the needs of members through research, innovation and standards development. Due to the generosity of the U.S. Coast Guard, NASBLA is able to do so on an increasingly large scale.

As a result of the Fiscal Year 2020 National Nonprofit Organization Recreational Boating Safety Grant Program applications, NASBLA was awarded funding for 10 grant projects, detailed below. Each of these projects is intended to support members and stakeholders in a coordinated effort to make our nation's waterways safer. The time period for these grants is July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021.

BOATING ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COURSES

This grant project is based upon a continued effort by NASBLA and the U.S. Coast Guard to improve the reliability of accident reporting and data collection. Specifically, grant funding was requested with plans to conduct five Level I – Comprehensive Boating Accident Investigation courses and one Level II – Advanced Boating Accident Investigation course.

BOATING SAFETY DASHBOARDS

This grant project addresses the need to develop, implement and maintain visual boating safety dashboards using the Dashboard tool. This product is intended for use by recreational boating safety professionals and stakeholders to make better-informed policy and programmatic decisions by providing ready access to U.S. Coast Guard and state-level data.

BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE DETECTION AND ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

This grant project assists NASBLA in conducting targeted trainings to combat boating under the influence of alcohol (BUI) and drugs (BUI-D). Specifically, grant funding was requested with plans to conduct two Boating Under the Influence Train-the-Trainer courses and two Boating Under the Influence Officer courses.

BUI AWARENESS & ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN: OPERATION DRY WATER

For the thirteenth year, grant funding will be used to deliver a year-round public outreach campaign nationwide, in addition to the three-day heightened awareness and enforcement weekend, July 2-4, 2021. NASBLA will engage with awareness and enforcement partners across the nation to help them educate boaters about the dangers associated with boating under the influence and remove impaired operators from our nation's waterways.

DEVELOPMENT OF BOATING ACCIDENT STANDARDS OF INVESTIGATION

This grant project is based on the need to formalize the methods and processes of boating accident investigation. NASBLA will develop these standards according to the American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) essential requirements process in hopes of submitting the standards as a new American National Standard.

DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS & SURVEILLANCE RECOMMENDATIONS THROUGH THE INJURY SURVEILLANCE WORKGROUP (ISW) PROCESS: TIER 2 OF A 3-TIERED APPROACH TO IMPROVE BOAT OCCUPANT INJURY SURVEILLANCE

This grant project will serve as the second tier of a three-tiered initiative focused on using a public health approach to enhance boat occupant injury surveillance, prevent occupant injuries and enhance safety.

EFFECTIVELY PROSECUTING BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE CASES: ENHANCED TRAINING FOR COURTROOM PREPARATION

Grant funding from this project will be used to initiate collaboration between NASBLA and the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA). The initial goal of this collaboration is to produce a training module that will enhance court room preparation for prosecutors of boating under the influence (BUI) cases. This partnership will bridge the gap between successful and unsuccessful prosecution of BUI.

LIFE JACKET WEBSITE: PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCES & INFORMATION FOR RBS PROFESSIONALS & BOATING PUBLIC

This grant project is intended to support and assist state and territorial recreational boating safety programs in educating the boating public about the importance of life jacket wear, the role of life jackets in mitigating risk, the types of life jackets available, the varying legal requirements associated with life jacket wear, and more.

NATIONAL BOATING EDUCATION STANDARDS

This grant project is intended to reduce recreational boating fatalities and injuries through increasing use and development of American National Standards for recreational boating while providing nationwide uniformity for course developers and providers to cultivate safer boating behaviors in the boating public.

STANDARDIZING STATE RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY STATUTES & REGULATIONS: NASBLA & THE STATES

This grant project assists NASBLA in bringing together the states' recreational boating safety agencies by providing funding to partner with and support the states, the U.S. Coast Guard and the recreational boating safety community in standardizing state recreational boating safety statutes, regulations and policies.

SPONSORS

Mission Partners

FLIR

FLIR Systems, Inc. designs, develops, manufactures, markets, and distributes technologies that enhance perception and awareness. We bring innovative sensing solutions into daily life through our thermal imaging, visible-light imaging, video analytics, measurement and diagnostic, and advanced threat detection systems.

RAYMARINE

Raymarine is a world leader in high performance marine electronics for the recreational boating and light commercial marine markets. Our products are engineered to deliver the very best in visual navigation information and with a legacy of marine navigation technology spanning over 80 years, Raymarine products are renowned today for their ease-of-use, rugged design, and reliability.

Strategic Partners

FRESH AIR EDUCATORS

Fresh Air Educators is revolutionizing the field of outdoor safety education. Their mission is to use the power of online education to help people around the world get on the water, in the field, in the air and on the trail faster, easier and safer than ever before. So far their interactive online courses have helped more than 2 million people get the safety training they need to go boating, hunting, flying, snowmobiling or ATV'ing.

KALKOMEY

Kalkomey is all about creating outdoor enthusiasts. Kalkomey's platform connects millions of people with the outdoors every year. Established in 1995, Kalkomey partnered with state agencies to provide boater education. Today, Kalkomey offers an entire suite of integrated web applications designed to connect people with the outdoors.

Leadership Partners

BRUNSWICK

Today, Brunswick Commercial & Government Products (BCGP) is recognized worldwide as one of the leading manufacturers of commercial and government watercraft. BCGP offers superior quality crafts to commercial and government agencies around the world, while providing unsurpassed customer service and support.

BOATSMART!

BOATsmart! has been educating boaters since 2003. These courses are designed and developed from the ground up in North America for boaters, by real boaters. Each BOATsmart! Course is approved and accredited to prepare boaters to obtain their State Approved Boater Education Card or Transport Canada Boating License.

CONFERENCE SPONSORS



National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

2020 Annual Report

www.nasbla.org

1020 Monarch Street, Suite 200

Lexington, KY 40513

859.225.9487

Follow us:

@NASBLA



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